(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the flow of foreign funds to the terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Government are aware of reports of various secessionist leaders and organisations in Jammu and Kashmir having received funds from diverse channels and sources in contravention of the law. The Government and all the concerned security and enforcement agencies have been continuously making efforts to contain such possibilities through sustained vigilance, inquiries and investigations and operations against the terrorists.

Notices had also been issued to 46 individuals and 24 organisations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Action on these notices, and for violation of other relevant laws is being taken by the concerned agencies. It will not be in the interest of ongoing inquiries/investigations to disclose more details at this stage. In another case investigated by the CBI 4 persons were convicted to 5 years imprisonment by the court in August, 1996 inter-alia for funding of terrorist activities.

Utilisation of Amount

2801. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount provided to the Government of Bihar by the United Government for various Urban Employment Schemes during 1995-96 and 1996-97 been utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount likely to be utilised by the State Government for the implementation of there schemes during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Two Centrally sponsored Urban Employment Schemes, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), are being implemented in the urban areas of Bihar. During the year 1995-96 and 1996-97, Central funds amounting to Rs. 669.80 lakhs have been released under the employment schemes of NRY to the State. Out of total funds of Rs. 1116.34 lakhs (Central + State share), State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 1682.50 lakhs during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The expenditure also includes expenditure incurred out of unspent funds of previous years.

A sum of Rs. 387.89 lakhs have been utilised under the PMI UPEP during 1995-96. For 1996-97, no amount has been released so far to Bihar.

(c) Allocation for 1997-98 in respect of all the States/ UTs are yet to be finalised.

SEBs

2802. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any Committee for reviewing the functioning of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its Report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Pipavav Power Project

2803. SHRI VIJAY HARISHCHANDRA PATEL :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to the Nodal Agency to give clearance in principle for the power projects before putting them on competitive bid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Electricity Authority have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat; for clearance in principle to Pipavav Power Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The proposal for 'in-principle' clearance to Pipavav dual fuel based power station (615 MW) was received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from M/s. Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL). The 'in-principle' clearance of CEA is accorded only to be Generating Company, who executes the project to facilitate it in tying-up various inputs, including finances.

Since M/s GPCL is not the executing the project, the requisite 'in-principle' clearance could not be accorded and the proposal was returned by CEA in October, 1996.

Research Work in New Fields

2804. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any facilities are being provided to scientists and researchers in the field of technology to update their research works;

(b) if so, the new fields wherein research works have been made during the last five years; and the achievements therein so far;

(c) whether any research has been made about the use of CNG in the automotive and other industries; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the new areas where research work has been carried out in the last five years are :—

Membranes, New materials, Robotics, Organic polymers, Computer aided design, Protein folding and Protein Engineering, Laser processing materials, Titanium and Magnesium production materials, New drug design etc.

Some of the achievements are :—

High efficiency fluroscence lamps have been developed by using some phosphor material; Membrane technology developed for concentration of milk, viral and toxoid based vaccines, providing safe drinking water etc.; Development of software modules for ship design and production; Development of indigenous design for cross flow turbine for micro hydel applications; BOD Sensors; Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells; Technology developed for blood oxygenator.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The indigenously developed system is under trial.

UPSEB

2805. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the dues from the various Government departments in Uttar Pradesh and Kanpur city in particular, to State Electricity Board; and

(b) the steps are being proposed for the early recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The organisation wise/area-wise dues of the SEBs including the UPSEB are not maintained by the Central Government. However, from the audited accounts of UPSEB for 1995-96, it is noted that the total receivables against supply of power by the Board was Rs. 3322.45 crores. The action for recovery of these outstanding rests with the UPSEB/State Government.

Crude Oil

2806. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of crude and refined products in Idnia are low in comparison to international prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any intention to bring them at par with international prices;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether prices of both domestic crude oil and refined products are likely to be fixed by the Oil Coordination Committee and also to fix consumer prices of administered products on quarterly basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its effect on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Presently, the domestic prices of crude oil and petroleum products are administered by the Government and are fixed taking into consideration production cost, cost of imported products and crude oil and socio economic factors. The private sector/joint venture crude oil producers are being paid international prices under the production sharing contracts. The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations from time to time.

Bottling Plants

2807. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sanad, Bhavnagar and Palanpur Bottling Plants have been commissioned and have started functioning;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any plan for good marketing network in Gujarat keeping in view the increased availability of LPG, after commissioning of above plants; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-commissioning of the plants and non-formulation of marketing plan?